



Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the Carleton Stevens
Coon papers, 1906-1982

Kathleen T. Baxter

1993

National Anthropological Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Carleton Stevens Coon papers
Date:	1906-1982
Identifier:	NAA.1985-02
Creator:	Coon, Carleton S. (Carleton Stevens), 1904-1981
Extent:	101.69 Linear feet
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Processing Information

Processed by Kathleen T. Baxter, 1993.

Revised by NAA Staff, November 2001.

Encoded by Zac Greenfield, May 2018.

Portions of the collection are unprocessed. Contact the repository for more information.

Preferred Citation

Carleton Stevens Coon Papers, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

The Carleton S. Coon Papers are open for research.

Access to the Carleton S. Coon Papers requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Biographical Note

Carleton S. Coon Chronology

<i>June 23, 1904</i>	Born in Wakefield, Massachusetts .
<i>1921</i>	Graduated from Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts.
<i>1925</i>	A.B., Harvard University.
<i>1926</i>	Married Mary Goodale.
<i>1925</i>	Morocco: Sheldon Travel Fellowship (Harvard).
<i>1926-1928</i>	Harvard expeditions to Morocco.
<i>1928</i>	Ph.D., M.A. in Anthropology, Harvard University.

1927-1948 Harvard Faculty, from Instructor to Professor [absent 1942-1945 for war service].

1929-1930 Harvard expedition to North Albania.

1933 Russia.

1933-1934 Peabody Museum expedition - Ethiopia and Yemen.

1936-1948 Asst. Curator, Peabody Museum at Harvard.

1939 Morocco (discovered "Aterian" fossil man).

1942 Membre D'Honneur, Association la Liberation of Francaise.

1942-1946 Military service, including: 1942-1945 OSS.

1942-1943 Special Assistant to American Legation, Tangier, Morocco; travels in North Africa.

1943-1944 North Africa: Tunisia, Bari; South Europe: Corsica.

1944 Divorced by Mary Goodale Coon.

1945 Married Lisa Dougherty Geddes.

1945 Decorated Legion of Merit.

1947 Morocco.

1948-1949 Member, Social Science Research Council.

1948-1963 Professor of Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania.

1948-1963 Curator of Ethnology, University Museum, University of Pennsylvania.

1948-1949 University Museum expedition to Iraq and Iran.

1949-1964 Panelist, "What in the World" TV show.

1951 Excavated 5 cave sites in Iran -- discovered Hotu man.

1951 Wenner-Gren Foundation medalist.

1951-1952 Saudi Arabia, Consultant to Arab-American Oil Co.

1952 Viking Medal in Physical Anthropology.

1954 Afghanistan (including Kara Kamar rock shelter) and Syria, Jordan, and Iran; Australia.

1955 Syria - cave near Palmyra; South and Central Africa.

1955 Member, National Academy of Sciences.

1956-1957 Trip around the world for USAF; especially India and Japan.

1956-1966 Consultant, Scott Foresman & Co.

1958-1963 Member, Committee on Education, National Science Foundation (NSF).

1959 Alakaluf Indians, Chile.

1961-1964 Committee on Science Personnel, NSF.

1962 Gold Medal, Philadelphia Athenaeum.

1962-1963 President, American Association of Physical Anthropologists.

1962-1963 Morocco: discovered Jebel Ighoud Man #2.

1963	Retired from University of Pennsylvania/University Museum and moved to Gloucester, Massachusetts.
1963-1981	Res. Curator of Anthropology, University Museum, Philadelphia.
1964	Russia.
1965	Yengma Cave excavation, Sierra Leone; and Ghana, Nigeria.
1966	Cameroon, Tibesti, Acacus.
1966-1967	Chad and Libya: Saharan Rock Painting expedition; "Archaeology" TV show.
1966-1981	Hon. Curator of Anthropology, Peabody Museum, Salem, Massachusetts.
1972	Travels in Asia, especially India.
1972	Gold Medal, Harvard Travelers Club.
June 3, 1981	Died at his home in Gloucester, Massachusetts.

Scope and Contents

These records concern the professional activities of Carleton S. Coon (1904-1981). Coon is well-known as an anthropologist, archaeologist, and writer. In the 1920's, when he began his career, the field of anthropology was not as specialized as it later became. As with many of the professionals in anthropology, Coon became proficient at physical anthropology, cultural anthropology, and archaeology. Knowledge and experience in these areas were all tied together by his special interest in the subject of race and the evolution of man.

Coon was particularly interested in the people of the Arab world (Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Morocco, etc.). He became fluent in the Arab language and made many trips to that part of the world, both as an anthropologist and, during World War II, as a member of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS).

This collection reflects Coon's spectrum of interest. There are original anthropometric records and photographs concerning virtually every race and nationality. In this collection is also a considerable amount of material regarding Coon's many publications, (e.g., notes, drafts, photographs, correspondence), particularly the publications which dealt with race and anthropology (see attached list of Coon's major publications). The correspondence series is almost entirely professional, but there is a small amount of personal correspondence.

The collection contains the following series: Correspondence, 7.14 linear feet (5.25 ft. chronological and 1.89 ft. topical); Anthropometric Data, 11.1 linear feet (5.1 ft. original data and 6 ft. data from published sources); Subject Files, 9.46 linear feet (5.46 ft. legal-sized papers and 4 ft. index cards); Publications, 17.73 linear feet; and Photographs, 53.74 linear feet.

For the first half of his career (1927-1948), Carleton Coon was affiliated with his alma mater, Harvard. In 1948, Coon accepted a dual appointment with the University of Pennsylvania as Professor of Anthropology and Curator of Ethnology at the University Museum, from which he retired in 1963. Some of the records in this collection seem to have been acquired from the university, particularly the photographs credited to the University Museum. The bulk of the material in this collection concerns Coon's years as an active staff member of Harvard and then U. of P., (1927-1963), but there are some records preceding that period, and others which continue virtually up to his death in 1981.

Some records of Carleton Coon have been retained by the family.

Please note that the contents of the collection and the language and terminology used reflect the context and culture of the time of its creation. As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today. The information within this collection does not reflect

the views of the Smithsonian Institution or National Anthropological Archives, but is available in its original form to facilitate research.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in 5 series: (1) Correspondence, 1906-1979; (2) Anthropometric Data; (3) Subject Files, 1920-circa 1978; (4) Publications, 1939-1980; and (5) Photographs.

Carleton S. Coon, Major Publications

- 1931 *Tribes of the Rif*.
- 1932 *Flesh of the Wild Ox*.
- 1933 *The Riffian*.
- 1935 *Measuring Ethiopia and Flight into Arabia*.
- 1939 *The Races of Europe*.
- 1942 *Principles of Anthropology* (w/ E.D. Chapple).
- 1948 *A Reader in General Anthropology*.
- 1950 *The Mountains of Giants*.
- 1950 *Races* (w/ J.B. Birdsell and S.M. Garn).
- 1951 *Cave Explorations in Iran, 1949*.
- 1951 *Caravan*.
- 1954 *The Story of Man*.
- 1957 *The Seven Caves*.
- 1958 *Faces of Asia*.
- 1962 *Origin of Races*.
- 1963 *Anthropology A to Z* (w/ E.E. Hunt).
- 1965 *The Living Races of Man*.
- 1968 *Yengema Cave Report*.
- 1971 *The Hunting Peoples*.
- 1976 *A Reader in Cultural Anthropology*.
- 1980 *A North Africa Story*.
- 1981 *Adventures and Discoveries* (autobiography).
- 1982 *Racial Adaptations* (published posthumously).